



# TOWN OF VERNON

## Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

[www.Vernon-CT.gov](http://www.Vernon-CT.gov)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2020

#### Press Contacts:

Michelle Hill, Director, Vernon Youth Services  
(860) 870-3557

**Daniel A. Champagne**  
*Mayor*

**Michael J. Purcaro**  
*Town Administrator*

**Dawn R. Maselek**  
*Assistant Town Administrator*

## ***MyVernonCT* WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### **Partnership with Vernon Public Schools Celebrates the Historical, Cultural and Natural Aspects of Vernon**

**(VERNON)** - Third-graders from across the Town of Vernon have a reason to celebrate the historical, cultural and natural aspects of their town as the winners of the first annual *MyVernonCT* program were announced. A component of Vernon's Sustainable Connecticut certification, *MyVernonCT*, is a youth-in-arts initiative that aims to encourage people of all ages to visit local parks, trails, museums, and historic sites in town, and then express their experiences through artistic or poetic works.

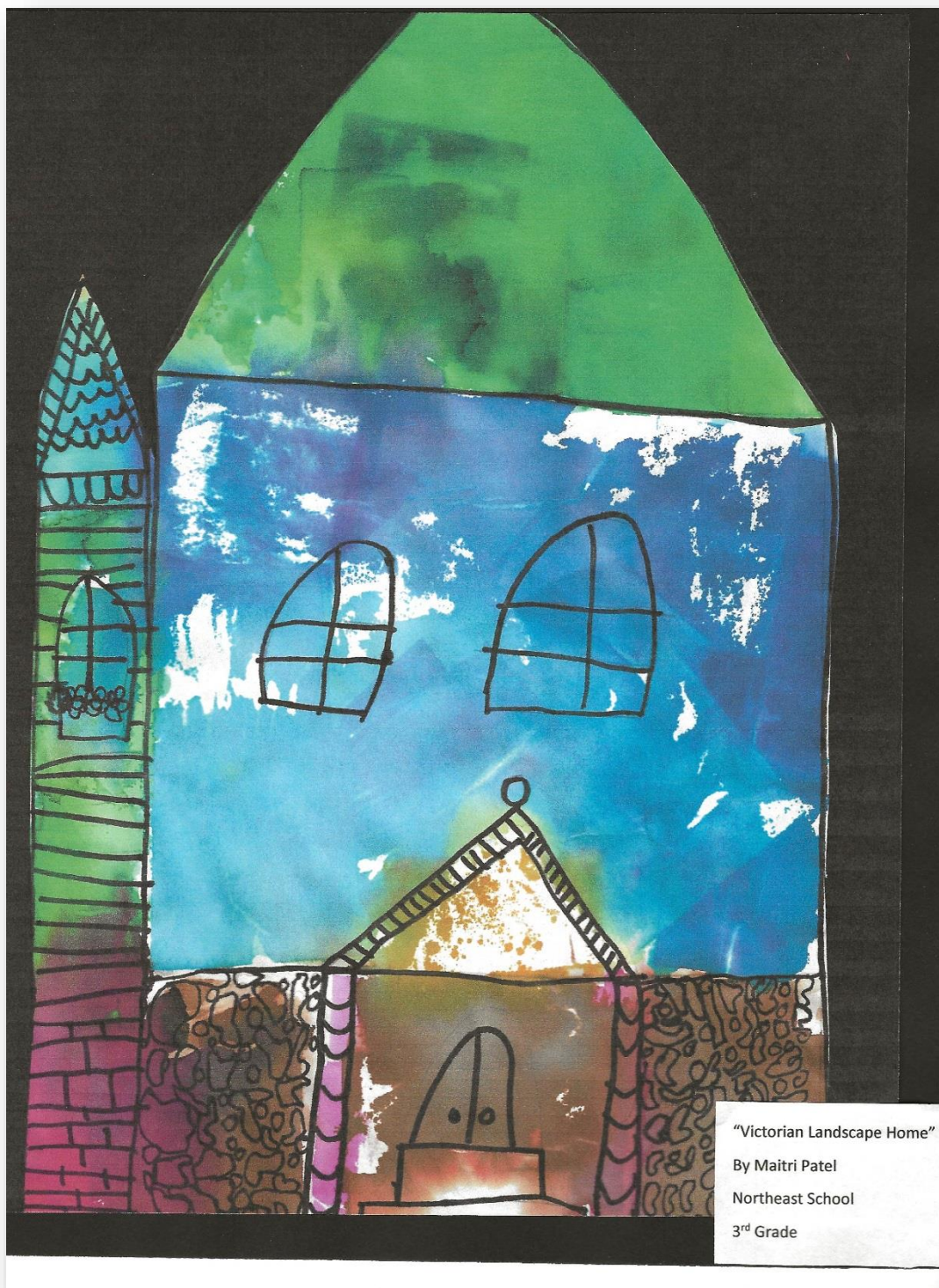
"The *MyVernonCT* project brought together a diverse group of children and adults to showcase the natural and artistic resources that exist within Vernon," said Mayor Daniel A. Champagne. "I would like to thank artistic judges, Sandra Justin, Chairman of Vernon Arts Commission and Jennifer Kowal, Executive Director of ArtsCenterEast, and poetry judges Caitlin Kelley, Assistant Director of Rockville Public Library, and Vernon's Poet Laureate, Pegi Deitz Shea, for their assistance."

"The *MyVernonCT* project was truly one of the most inspiring achievements of Vernon's Sustainable CT certification," said Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director. "We assembled a group of educational and artistic professionals that work with youth to create a 'hands-on' art and culture program for our third graders that aligned with curricular goals. Teachers at each school chose a theme, and then guided the students in creating their artistic masterpieces. Each school worked under a unique theme which included 'Transportation' (Maple Street School); 'Water' (Center Road School); 'Food' (Skinner Road School); 'Architecture' (Northeast School); and 'The Tunnel' (Lake Street School)."

"The winner of the art competition is Maitri Patel of Northeast School, who painted a Victorian home and the winner of the poetry competition is Samantha DeMarco of Center Road School, who wrote the poem 'Fish at Valley Falls,'" said Pegi Deitz Shea, Poet Laureate for the Town of Vernon. "It is our hope to share the students' work with our community, and to celebrate the participants in a formal presentation when larger gatherings are permitted."

For more information about the *MyVernonCT* program, please contact Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director at (860) 870-3557.





"Victorian Landscape Home"

By Maitri Patel

Northeast School

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



## **FISH AT VALLEY FALLS**

Rushing and gushing down the stream

Jumping along the way

Bubbles floating up to the top

They make their way down the waterfall

Using their fins to push on the current

Breathing from their colorful gills

Rippling and dripping through the water

Making sure they finish their journey

Samantha DeMarco

Center Road School



### **About the Town of Vernon**

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and well-being of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capitol of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the county.

Recently designated as a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov).

**# # #**